The original documents are located in Box 12, “7/18/75 - Film Message for the Longshoreman's Convention (Includes draft)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SHOWN...

FILM MESSAGE FOR THE

LONGSHOREMAN'S CONVENTION

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1975

Note: New p. 7 you have not yet seen.
I want to thank President Teddy Gleason for inviting me to attend your forty-third International Longshoremen's Association Convention. I regret not being able to be with you and President Meany and the many distinguished members and guests of I.L.A. at this year's meeting.
HOWEVER, I GREATLY APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE CONVENTION.
YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING TOGETHER FOR THE DISCUSSION AND DECISION-MAKING THAT IS SO NECESSARY TO CHART YOUR ASSOCIATION'S FUTURE. WHILE OPINIONS MAY DIFFER, A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ACHIEVE SOLUTIONS AND REACH GOALS.
THE PROBLEMS WE AS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AND AS
A NATION FACE TODAY -- THE ECONOMY, UNEMPLOYMENT,
THE ENERGY CRISIS AND OUR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES --
ARE NOT SIMPLE PROBLEMS. NOR ARE THE SOLUTIONS SIMPLE.
BUT WE FACE THESE PROBLEMS WITH CONFIDENCE.

FOR WE ARE STRONG IN SPIRIT, STRONG IN COMMITMENT,

STRONG IN FAITH.
WE ARE ALSO STRONG MILITARILY -- AND WILL STAY THAT WAY. WE WILL NOT NEGLECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY DEFENSE WHILE CONCENTRATING ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, I CAN ASSURE YOU OF THAT.
I can assure you of something else: The provisions of the U.S.-Russian maritime agreement will be honored.

One-third of all grain to the Soviet Union will be shipped in American vessels.
YOUR ORGANIZATION DESERVES SPECIAL PRAISE FOR THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION RECENTLY DISPLAYED IN REACHING MUTUAL AGREEMENT IN YOUR INDUSTRY. YOU HAD THE FLEXIBILITY SO NECESSARY TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHOUT RESORTING TO THE STRIFE AND TURMOIL WHICH IS SO DISRUPTIVE TO THE NATIONAL WELFARE.
TOGETHER, WITH A SIMILAR SPIRIT, WE CAN AND WILL SOLVE OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS. WITH THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL AMERICANS AS OUR STANDARD AND WITH A COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER, WE WILL PRODUCE REALISTIC AND COMPASSIONATE SOLUTIONS TO TODAY'S PROBLEMS.

THANK YOU, AND MY VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU.
I want to thank President Teddy Gleason for inviting me to attend your 43rd International Longshoremen's Association Convention. I regret not being able to be with you and President Meany and the many distinguished members and guests of ILA at this year's meeting.

However, I greatly appreciate this opportunity to extend my best wishes to all of you for a successful and productive convention. You understand the importance of meeting together for the discussion and decision-making that is so necessary to chart your Association's future. While opinions may differ, a spirit of cooperation is fundamental to achieve solutions and reach goals.

The problems we as individual citizens and as a nation face today -- the economy, unemployment, the energy crisis and our international responsibilities -- are not simple problems. Nor are the solutions simple.
But we face these problems with confidence, knowing that

the American spirit of cooperative enterprise will ultimately find

the proper solutions. For 199 years, every generation of Americans

has had its own particular set of problems to solve and with the

spirit that I sense in our citizens, we will meet and solve today's

problems. For we are strong in spirit, strong in commitment, strong

in faith.

Your own industry deserves special praise for the spirit

of cooperative enterprise recently displayed in reaching an agreement

of mutual accommodation in . You had the flexibility so

necessary to resolve differences of opinion without resorting to the

strife and turmoil in your industry which is so disruptive to the

national welfare.

(more)
Together, with a similar spirit, we can and will solve our national problems. With the best interest of all Americans as our standard and with a commitment to work together, we will produce realistic and compassionate solutions to today's problems.

Thank you, and my very best wishes to all of you.
CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: Film Message for the Longshoreman's Convention

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